

In memory of Ina Trix Klaasen

“You will not die because you are ill, but because you are alive.”

Seneca

Ina Trix Klaasen (68), one of *JDR*'s founders and editors, passed away on the 2nd of August 2015, while on holiday in Italy. She was born on February 11, 1947, in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. Ina was an associate professor at the Department of Urbanism of the Delft University of Technology. After retiring in 2012, she kept on coaching PhD candidates, and kept on being editor of the *Journal of Design Research*.

From 1965–1974, Ina studied Physical Geography (University of Amsterdam, additional subject: Environmental Studies); Physical Planning (Wageningen University); and the Interdisciplinary Study Group Urbanism (Delft University of Technology). From 1995–1997, she followed the Core Program Philosophy at the Open University of the Netherlands.

Shortly after finishing her studies, Ina started working at the Delft University of Technology as an assistant professor of Urban and Regional Design. From 2002, she was an associate professor of Spatial Planning and Strategy. In that year, she received an Aspasia grant from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). She supervised, as co-promotor, several PhD candidates.

Ina defended her doctoral dissertation ‘Knowledge-based design – developing urban and regional design into a science’ in 2003. This pioneering work integrated design research into urban and regional design. It has been, and still is, an important contribution to the domain of urbanism. It inspired various students to pursue a PhD, and still holds potentials and challenges that yet have to be realised.

Ina became politically active (for the Democrats 66) both in the provincial council of North-Holland and as advisor on spatial planning issues of her party's representatives in parliament. She participated in the board of a number of social organisations. She was a strong supporter of the Foundation for Refugee Students (UAF) and Amnesty International.

In 1997, the first discussions started at Delft University of Technology about the implementation of a scientific design journal. The idea was to have a journal in which all design disciplines should be represented: the schools of Industrial Design Engineering, Architecture, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Technology, Policy and Management. One of the most active members of the big group was Ina: very outspoken, sometimes controversial, but always focused on concrete results.

Setting up a journal takes time, particularly, when so many parties want to stress their own identity. It led to the conclusion that a journal with so many disciplines involved might be too general and too difficult to manage. So, a selection was made resulting in a focus on industrial design, architecture and design policy and management issues. Three editors, each from a corresponding school, started in 2001 the actual *Journal of Design Research* (*JDR*) published by the Library of TU Delft as an online journal.

Hence, together with Henri Christiaans and Paulien Herder, Ina started *JDR* in 2001, and has stayed on as one of the editors ever since. From the early beginnings, when *JDR* was still a small starting journal at the Delft University Press, until its current status as a member of the Inderscience Publishers group, she has been extremely driven to propel

the journal and she did not shy away from contacting influential people who could help the journal forward. She was one of the main driving forces behind the increasing impact of the journal, and has relentlessly sought for ways to increase the quality of the journal and its editorial processes. Ina remained one of the editors for all 13 volumes published so far, and therefore has had a tremendous influence on shaping *JDR* into what it is today. Henri and Paulien also look back on a very rewarding time with Ina personally, in the very many editorial meetings in the past decade. Often of serious nature, she also made time to talk in a relaxed setting, at her home or in a local bar or restaurant. During those meetings, Ina showed her passion for many other societal issues. This too made her such a valuable editor of *JDR*.

We will remember Ina for her dedication as an editor, and her contribution to integrate design research into the domain of urban and regional design.

Egbert Stolk

Renee Wever

Henri Christiaans

Paulien Herder